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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/971,338	11/17/1997	SE-JIN LEE	GDF-1	4000

7590 10/21/2002

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EXAMINER

ALLEN, MARIANNE P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1631

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2002

376

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	08/971,338	LEE, SE-JIN
	Examiner	Art Unit 1631

The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION: In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any accrued patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____ .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 4-10 and 22-35 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 4-10 and 22-35 are under consideration by the examiner.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/12/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101/112

Claims 4-10 and 22-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility due to its not being supported by a specific, substantial and credible utility or by a well established utility.

This rejection is maintained for reasons of record.

Claims 4-10 and 22-35 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art would not know how to use the claimed invention.

This rejection is maintained for reasons of record.

None of applicant's arguments are persuasive in rebutting these rejections. The specification itself documents that the specific biological role of GDF-1 was not known at the time of the invention. The record amply demonstrates that significant experimentation was

required after the filing date to determine the specific biological role of GDF-1. The record amply demonstrates that this experimentation involved new experimental techniques and materials unknown at the time of the invention. The statement in the specification relied upon by applicant that "This new gene and the encoded protein, like other members of this superfamily, are likely play (sic) an important role in mediating developmental decisions related to cell differentiation" (see page 2 of the specification) does not establish a well known or specific, substantial, and credible utility for GDF-1. Given a fair reading of the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art would not interpret this statement nor the gene expression results in Example 4 and Figure 6 as a prediction that the biological role of GDF-1 would be the regulation of left-right patterning or axis formation in mice. Nor would the information in the specification suggest or predict a prenatal condition that GDF-1 could be used to screen for. This speculative and general statement is an invitation to experiment and determine its biological role. It is not a prediction of a particular activity to be confirmed. There are many, varied developmental decisions that are mediated.

Claims 4-7, 22, 24-25, 30, and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a written description rejection and a new matter rejection.

This rejection is maintained for reasons of record.

None of applicant's arguments are persuasive in rebutting this rejection. The specification provides no limiting definition as to the defining structural or functional features for GDF-1. The specification does not describe the invention as is now claimed. Applicant has not pointed to a page and line number in support of the claims as presently written. Disclosure of a Southern hybridization and description of a domain would not convey to one of ordinary skill in the art that the invention contemplated was that which is presently claimed.

It is believed that all pertinent arguments have been addressed.

Conclusion

No claim is allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marianne P. Allen, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0666. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (703) 308-4028. Official FAX communications may be directed to either (703) 308-4242 or (703) 305-3014.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Marianne P. Allen

Marianne P. Allen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1631

mpa
October 17, 2002